



[11443/160]

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Michael WHITMAN et al.  
Serial No. : 10/785,672  
Filing Date : February 23, 2004  
For : SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE  
Group Art Unit : 3721  
Examiner : Gloria Weeks  
Confirmation No. : 2683

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date:

*April 7, 2006*

Signature:

*Chih Lin*

**AMENDMENT**

S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2006, please amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.